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RECH 1

OCT 26 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for National Estimates

SUBJECT : ORR Suggestions for NIE's

REFERENCE : Memo from DAD/NE, subject: 'Preliminary Planning for the Program of NIE's for 1954', 8 October 1953

1. In response to the request in the referenced memorandum, ORR offers a few suggestions for NIE's and some additional comments that may be of interest.

2. ORR is pleased to see that the present plan for scheduling NIE's provides for advance notice of 9 to 12 months prior to project completion dates for individual studies. This advance notice generally will permit adequate time for planning and initiating research on contributions from ORR in response to scheduled NIE's.

3. In discussions here on the character of some of the NIE's, ORR has concluded that some Estimates might be of greater use in support of policy planning if they were to consider alternative courses of action and the consequences of each. Admittedly, ONE and the IAC representatives would need to so formulate these alternatives, in each instance, so that there would be no implication of policy recommendation. If such implication could not be avoided, would it not be possible, when deemed appropriate, to place formulated alternative courses of action before the NSC Planning Board for review and concurrence?

4. Although ORR recognizes that many vacuums remain in the support for policy planning obtainable from national intelligence studies, ORR has had difficulty in choosing, from a selection of many subjects, those suggestions which are of the scope that appear acceptable for NIE's. In the future, ORR intends to obtain more guidance from ONE in this regard -- not only so that ORR can contribute more fully but also so that the EIC can be utilized in the search for economic intelligence questions that are of such importance to our national security that they can appropriately become subjects for NIE's.

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5. ORR suggests the following topics for NIE's, believing them to be timely and of appropriate scope for consideration.

a. The current trends in the economic well-being and the degree of integration of the economies of the European Satellites with that of the Soviet Union, particularly in respect to the attitudes of the populations within the European Satellites, is of immediate and direct concern in the formulation of US policy in several fields. ORR suggests that an NIE could be proposed on the subject of what would be the probable consequences of US or Western World alternative courses of action against certain European Satellites and, further, what would be the possible Soviet reactions to such courses of action. Recognizing that US policy appears to be oriented toward the separation of the European Satellites from the Soviet Union, the alternative courses of action could vary from the propaganda approach, through various types of indirect and direct aid to resistance from within, to open military action. [redacted] is concerned with what problems the US would face if the Soviets were no longer able to dominate certain European Satellites, but no comprehensive study has been made of how this situation might be attained. 25X1A

b. In spite of the NIE's concerning Soviet Bloc capabilities and Soviet capabilities for attack on the US, ORR believes that there is need for an NIE on Soviet capabilities for conducting trans-Arctic warfare. There is a great deal of development with the US and Canada on the one hand, and by the Soviet Union on the other, in preparing for warfare under Arctic conditions. Furthermore, a major emphasis on continental defense is directed toward the Arctic. It would seem essential for policy planning that a discerning study of Soviet capabilities in this field be available at the earliest opportunity.

c. Economists and others are seriously concerned about the viability of the Japanese economy if it is expected to exist without strong ties with the mainland. ORR suggests, therefore, that an NIE might be concerned with the consequences to the US and to the Western World of possible alternative courses of action by Japan in support of its economy. The two extremes in alternative courses of action will, of course, be the resumption of trade and other economic ties with the mainland analogous to conditions before World War II on the one hand and complete cessation of economic relations with the Communists on the other.

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d. There is no assurance that North and South Korea will be unified. ORR feels that policy considerations of future US actions with respect to either a unified Korea or a continuing South Korean government require much greater national intelligence support than is currently planned. ORR suggests, therefore, that thought might be given to an NIE on the consequences of alternative US courses of action in respect to the economic and political development of a unified Korea or, if this is not attained, of a continuing South Korean government. In either case, the problems of economic and political reorientations will be extreme.

e. Lastly, it is felt that another periodic NIE should be scheduled on Soviet Bloc capabilities through mid-1956. Scheduling in advance, as far as possible, would be particularly helpful to those contributing to an NIE on this subject.

[redacted]

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OTTO E. GUTHE
Assistant Director
Research and Reports

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OEGuthe/mm
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